

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 ERDA-05 ARA-06 CIAE-00
DODE-00 EA-07 EUR-12 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 IO-13
L-03 NASA-01 NEA-10 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OIC-02 SP-02
PA-01 PRS-01 OES-06 SS-15 USIA-06 /126 W
-----210847Z 021063 /11

R 191230Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7156

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NOUAKCHOTT 0576

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PARM, MR

SUBJECT: BIO WEAPONS AGREEMENTS

REF: (A) NOUAKCHOTT 223, (B) STATE 33992, (C) STATE 34014

1. AMBASSADOR RAISED QUESTION OF MAURITANIAN ADHERENCE TO BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION AND TO 1925 GENEVA PROTOCOL ON POISON GAS (REFS B AND C) WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY DIRECTOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS, AMBASSADOR MUHAMMAD OULD SIDI 'ALI, MARCH 17. SIDI 'ALI WAS UNAWARE OF ANY PLANS ON PART OF GIRM TO SUBSCRIBE TO TWO CONVENTIONS, BUT PROMISED TO INVESTIGATE AND PROVIDE INFORMATION LATER.

2. DURING FEBRUARY 2 CONVERSATION ON NPT ADHERENCE, FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL IN CHARGE OF TREATIES AND INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS, SY ELY, INDICATED AWARENESS OF TWO WEAPONS AGREEMENTS A RESULT OF 1975 MEETING WITH US OFFICIAL AND INFORMED EMBOFF THAT DOCUMENTATION LEADING TO ADHERENCE TO TWO CONVENTIONS WAS ABOUT TO BEGIN LONG TRIP THROUGH MAURITANIAN BUREAUCRACY (REF A).

3. FACT THAT SIDI 'ALI WAS NOT AWARE OF ADHERENCE ACTIONS

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BEING PLANNED BY HIS STAFF IS INDICATION OF PRIORITY GIRM ASSIGNS TO TREATIES DEALING WITH WEAPONRY MAURITANIA DOES NOT POSSESS, DOES NOT INTEND TO ACQUIRE, AND WILL PROBABLY NEVER ENCOUNTER.

4. NEVERTHELESS, EMBASSY BELIEVES MAURITANIANS FULLY SUPPORT PRINCIPLES EMBODIED IN TWO AGREEMENTS AND THAT

THEY WILL EVENTUALLY BECOME PARTY TO BOTH. AT MOMENT,
HOWEVER, ATTENTION AND LIMITED CAPABILITIES OF GIRM
ARE CONCENTRATED ON PROBLEMS/ISSUES WHICH ARE IMMEDIATE
AND CRITICAL TO FUTURE OF NATION: SAHAR, WHICH OCCU-
PIES ALL OF FOREGROUND, AND THE RANGE OF AFRICAN AND
ARAB PROBLEMS WHICH TAKE UP MOST OF THE MIDDLE GROUND.
PROBLEMS LIKE WEAPONS CONVENTIONS LIE IN BACKGROUND, AND
WILL PROBABLY REMAIN THERE FOR FORESEEABLE FUTURE UNLESS
SOME SAHARA-OR OAU-OR ARAB LEAGUE-CONNECTED DEVELOPMENT
MOVES THEM FARTHER DOWN FRONT.

HANDYSIDE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TREATY COMPLIANCE, CHEMICAL & BIOLOGICAL WARFARE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 19-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977NOUAKC00576
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770095-1281
Format: TEL
From: NOUAKCHOTT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770343/aaaabkqz.tel
Line Count: 73
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: a69a5cb5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ACDA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 NOUAKCHOTT 223, 77 STATE 33992, 77 STATE 34014
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3058678
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BIO WEAPONS AGREEMENTS
TAGS: PARM, MR
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a69a5cb5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009